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IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 1 to read as follows:

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~~1. (Once Amended) A process for the preparation of a Grignard compound, said process comprising reacting an organic halide and magnesium metal in a solvent in the presence of:~~

- ~~a) a transition metal catalyst comprising:
 - ~~i) a transition metal selected from Periodic Table groups 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11; and~~
 - ~~ii) one or more elements selected from groups 14, 15, 16 or 17 bonded to said transition metal; and~~~~
 - ~~b) an activity-enhancing amount of an additional catalyst component, said additional catalyst component comprising:
 - ~~i) a compound of a metal of Periodic Table groups 1, 2 or 13; and~~
 - ~~ii) one or more elements of Periodic Table groups 14, 15, 16 or 17 or hydrogen bonded to said metal of Periodic Table groups 1, 2 or 13.~~~~
- B2*